CLAIM

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device, comprising:

providing a delivery system comprising an elongate member having proximal and distal ends, said expandable intraluminal medical device circumferentially disposed about a portion of the elongate member;

inserting the distal end of the elongate member into a body vessel;

advancing the distal end of the elongate member through the body vessel and to a desired point of treatment;

spacing a portion of the elongate member from a wall surface of the body vessel;

deploying said expandable intraluminal medical device from the elongate member; and

withdrawing the elongate member from the body vessel.

2. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to claim 1, wherein the step of spacing a portion of the elongate member from a wall surface of the body vessel comprises spacing a portion of the elongate member that includes said expandable intraluminal medical device.

3. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 1, wherein the elongate member defines a lumen and the delivery system further comprises an ancillary delivery device having a means for spacing a portion of the elongate member from a wall surface of a body vessel.

4. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 3, wherein the means for spacing comprises a basket formed from at least two wire members and having expanded and collapsed configurations.

5. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 1, wherein the elongate member includes a means for spacing a portion of the elongate member from a wall surface of a body vessel.

6. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 5, wherein the means for spacing comprises a Malecot assembly.

7. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 5, wherein the means for spacing comprises an inflatable balloon.

8. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 1, wherein the delivery system further comprises a sheath circumferentially disposed about the elongate member and movable along the elongate member, and wherein the step of deploying the expandable intraluminal medical device comprises retracting the sheath from a position about the expandable intraluminal medical device.

9. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 8, wherein the elongate member defines a lumen and the delivery system further comprises an ancillary delivery device disposed within the lumen, the ancillary delivery device having a means for spacing a portion of the elongate member from a wall surface of a body vessel.

10. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 9, wherein the step of spacing a portion of the elongate member from a wall surface of the body vessel comprises activating the means for spacing.

11. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 10, wherein the step of activating the means for spacing includes retracting the sheath from a position about the means for spacing.

12. A method for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 1, wherein said expandable intraluminal medical device comprises a prosthetic venous valve.

13. A delivery system, comprising

an elongate member having proximal and distal ends and defining a first lumen,

an expandable intraluminal medical device circumferentially disposed about a portion of the elongate member;

a sheath circumferentially disposed about the elongate member and the expandable intraluminal device, the sheath being movable along the elongate member; and

an ancillary delivery device disposed in the first lumen and having a basket formed from at least two wire members and having expanded and collapsed configurations;

wherein the basket is in the collapsed configuration when disposed in the first lumen and is in the expanded configuration when not disposed in the first lumen.

14. A delivery system for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 13, wherein the at least two wire members comprise flat wire.

15. A delivery system for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 13, wherein one of the at least two wire members defines two commissural points.

16. A delivery system for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 13, wherein each of the at least two wire members defines two commissural points.

17. A delivery system for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 13, wherein the elongate member further defines a second lumen separate from the first lumen.

18. A delivery system for delivering and deploying an expandable intraluminal medical device according to Claim 13, wherein the expandable intraluminal device comprises a prosthetic venous valve.

19. A delivery system, comprising

an elongate member having proximal and distal ends and having a means for spacing a portion of the elongate member from a wall surface of a body vessel;

a prosthetic valve disposed about a portion of the elongate member and spaced from the means for spacing; and

a sheath circumferentially disposed about the elongate member and over the prosthetic valve.

20. A delivery system according to Claim 19, wherein the means for spacing comprises a Malecot assembly.

21. A delivery system according to Claim 19, wherein the means for spacing comprises an inflatable balloon.